

Annual Church Bazaar

What an amazing event! Thank you to everyone that had a part in it.

Financial Results of the 2023 Bazaar:

Cake Walk \$ 60

Auction \$ 4,002.50

Lunch \$ 174

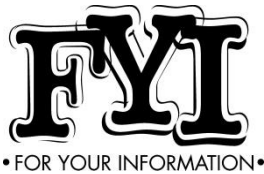
Quilt Raffle \$ 977

Country Store \$152

Donation Box \$ 9.50

Donations \$890

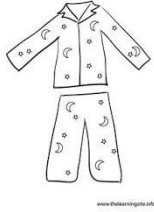
2023 Grand Total: \$6,265



2022 Bazaar income was \$ 5,617.30



A Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
will be held at Eleva Church on Wednesday, November
22nd at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend this joint
service. Desserts will be served after.



November Mission Opportunity:

“Pajama Grandma” distributes pajamas to children in the surrounding area. Bring NEW pajamas, any size, by December 1. There is more need for older children sizes.

The choir practices on
Wednesdays
at 6:30 pm
in the church
basement. All are
welcome to attend!

FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry collection is
the 2nd Sunday of the
month.

Please bring your non-
perishable food items to be
donated to area pantries.

**Council
Meeting is
Tuesday,
November 7
at 6 p.m.**

The Strum Area Food Pantry is here to serve our community and provide individuals and families assistance in meeting their nutritional and personal care needs. As we look forward to the holidays, we are in need of non-perishable food items, personal care products, paper products, and GENTLY USED hats, mittens, jackets, and boots to provide for the cold winter ahead. Monetary donations are also appreciated as with them we can buy additional food and other items.

Donations may be dropped off at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Strum. If you would like to arrange a specific date and time to drop off donations, or would like more information, please call 651-398-8861. For monetary donations, please make checks payable to STRUM AREA FOOD PANTRY and send to PO BOX 98, STRUM, WI 54770. We are very thankful for your continued support and donations.

Sunday School News

Nov 12 – Children’s choir will sing during 10:30 service. Also, Food Pantry collection!

Nov 26 – No Sunday School (Thanksgiving break)

**Christmas Program Practice will start in December!*

Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 am

Elk Creek Lutheran Church Council Meeting -- October 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Ryan Johnson at 7 PM. Members present were: Jan Berg, Mark Blabac, Brian Christopherson, Ryan Johnson, Dave Lyngen, Anson McCune, Lori Nelson, Lynn Nelson, Stephanie Rumstick, and Bruce Thompson. Prayer -- Ryan led the Council in prayer.

Secretary's Report -- It was noted that the Secretary's Report for September of 2023 had been sent to each of the Council members electronically, corrections made, and it had been approved prior to it being printed in the October Newsletter.

Financial Report -- was presented by Lynn with information provided by Haukeness Financial Service. Mark made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented; Anson seconded; motion passed.

Elk Creek Lutheran Church Account

General Checking Account - \$ 48,601.48
General [2050 Fund] Savings Account \$ 38,908.30
Building Fund Checking - \$ 9,363.98
Memorial Fund - \$ 6,081.26

Joint Parish Financial Accounts

Assets	Elk Creek	Immanuel	Total
Beginning Balance -	\$ 4,568.51	\$ 6,962.74	\$ 11,531.25
Deposits & Interest -	\$ 3,570.06	\$ 5,355.10	\$ 8,925.16
Payments -	\$ 3,299.04	\$ 4,948.54	\$ 8,247.58
Liabilities & Equity -	\$ 4,839.53	\$ 7,369.30	\$ 12,208.83
Ending Balance -	\$ 4,839.53	\$ 7,369.30	\$ 12,208.83

WELCA Report, Choir, Memorial Committee, Sunday School, & Office Staff -- No reports

Custodian – Lori indicated that Lindsey Nelson said she had deep cleaned the Pastor's Office and she recommended that a new plastic floor cover be purchased for the office.

Youth Group -- Lori reported that the Youth Group will be providing babysitting during the Bazaar and will also be serving an "Apple Goody" and other refreshments throughout the evening. The group plans to take Pastor Ahles out for breakfast sometime in November and will be putting on the Living Nativity in early December. They are inviting participation from the youth at Strum.

Joint Parish Council Report -- The Joint Council met with a representative of the Synod to learn the process for calling a new pastor. The topic of the 60 (Strum) / 40 (Elk Creek) split was discussed. Strum would like to change it to a 50 / 50 split. It was determined that Listening Sessions needed to be held at both churches. The Joint Council will be having a Special Meeting on October 17.

Old Business --

- **Basement Window Screen** – The broken screen has been fixed and repairs to the screens on any of the other basement windows have been made.
- **Bookshelves** – These have been installed in the Council Room and look very nice.

- Chairlift – Pastor is no longer interested in purchasing the chairlift. Ryan will look into selling it back to the company at fair market value.
- Vacuum Cleaner – Lindsey Nelson has ordered the parts and will install them once they arrive.
- Painting of the Narthex – After discussion, Council agreed this should be done. Since this is everyone’s introduction to the church building, we felt it should be done by a professional. Ryan will speak to Allen to see if he would do it or could recommend someone.
- Parsonage’s Water Problem – Ryan and Henry Filla have been working on it, but it was felt that this and the patronage’s sewer problem should be handled by a professional. Anson made a motion to contact a plumber to deal with these issues; Mark seconded; motion passed. Ryan will contact a plumber.
- God’s Work, Our Hands – This will be held following church services on October 15. The primary project will be the shed behind the church as well as organizing any storage spaces within the church. The cemetery fence also needs to be fixed. We are also looking for additional projects.
- Search for a New Pastor – Ryan and Anson indicated that the Synod is in the process of trying to find our churches an Interim Pastor; however it will take time. A form needs to be filled out and submitted. A detailed procedural manual which provides help for filling out the form was included. Strum has begun filling out their part and we will start soon. Keith Nelson has a copy of the information we submitted when we were searching for a pastor and got Pastor Ahles. Elk Creek’s first Listening Session was held after the church service on October 1. Additional sessions – both listening and informational – will be held during the coming months. A Call Committee has been formed – Anson McCune, Donna Kehrmeyer, Roberta West, and Jessica or Kevin Berg. Three will be committee members and one will be an alternate. Dove and the Trempealeau Health Care Center will be informed that we do not have a pastor who can provide services. K. J. Nelson will participate in Confirmation classes with the students from Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls. As the early church, it is Sturm’s responsibility to locate a Supply Pastor for each of the coming Sundays.

New Business --

- Sunday, October 29 – Immanuel will be hosting a special service featuring guest musicians on Sunday, October 29. Members of the Elk Creek congregation are invited to attend. Since they would like to hold this service at 10:30, Ryan will locate someone to lead the service at Elk Creek on that Sunday.
- Sunday, October 22 – Since Pastor Tobiason will not be available to preach on October 22, Kris Husby of Immanuel indicated that they will be having a Hymn Sing asked if would like to have one as well. Ryan said he will locate someone to lead the service at Elk Creek on that Sunday.
- Organist’s Resignation – Becky Rongstad submitted her resignation as the church organist effective as of October 1, 2023. She will be spending time with her family. This could also affect her accompanying the Choir and/or Sunday School children. The Council wants to thank Becky for her more than 40 years of service to our church. A celebration in honor of Becky will be planned for the near future.
- Clavinova – Tammy Danenberg will be teaching additional members of the congregation how to operate the clavinova to provide music during services. Anyone interested should contact her (715) 299-0993.

- **Tree** – Stephanie requested that we consider planting a tree near the picnic tables by the church. She noted that it would be nice to be able to eat in the shade while enjoying the outdoors. Following discussion, Anson made a motion to purchase and plant an established tree by the picnic tables. Mark seconded and the motion passed. Anson will take care of ordering the tree.
- **Listening Session** – Ryan noted that our first Listening Session was held following the October 1 Church Service. The process for getting a new pastor was discussed. Immanuel’s request that we change the Parish Agreement from a 60 (Immanuel) / 40 (Elk Creek) percent split to a 50 / 50 percent split was discussed at length during that meeting. Holding Congregational Listening Sessions is required by the Synod is one step in the process for obtaining a new pastor. It was noted that additional sessions will happen in the future and that they will be Information Sessions as well as Listening Sessions.
- **Joint Parish Agreement** – It was noted that the Joint Parish Agreement must be reviewed yearly and it runs through the end of the year. The Council was in agreement that we did not want to make a change to the Parish Agreement mid-year. Also, we feel that there is a need to establish concrete criteria for the parameters prior to making any changes to the Parish Agreement. Ryan and Kris Husby can work on this. We did not feel that the money should be a part of this. It was noted that we would probably need to update our Membership Rolls prior to agreeing to any changes in the Agreement. According to Elk Creek’s constitution, membership is determined by attendance at services, receiving communion, and monetary donation. We would definitely want to notify all current active members before making any changes to our Membership Role. We will look into this, but will make no change at this time.
- **Parsonage** – It was recommended that we consider having the Parsonage power-washed – in particular the west side. The gutters will also probably need to be cleaned. Other possible actions were discussed. The Council planned to do a Walk Through of the parsonage, but it was locked so we were unable to do this. Lynn was directed to cancel the phone, internet, and cable to the parsonage.
- **Pastor’s Robes, etc** – Lori suggested that the Pastor’s Robes and Stoles be dry cleaned. She noted that the Altar Cloths could be cleaned at the same time. Jan made a motion to get the robes, stoles, and altar cloths cleaned; Lori seconded; and the motion passed.
- **Finances** – Anson made a motion for Lynn to purchase two CDs (one for \$10,000 and one for \$5,000) from a local bank (depending on available interest rates); Bruce seconded; and motion passed.
- **Bills** – Bills from the WELCA (for the quilt given to Pastor Ahles upon his retirement); Lindsey Nelson for a Carpet Extractor, Semingson Aberle Plumbing LLC, and the regular bills were presented. Brian made a motion to pay the bills as presented; Lynn seconded; and the motion passed.
- **Donations** – Donation requests from Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services and from Lutheran Social Services for Wisconsin and Upper Michigan were read. No action was taken.
- **Thank You** – A Thank You from the Trempealeau County Fair Board was read.
- **Invitation** – An invitation to the Fundraiser for the Harvesting Hope Challenge Kickoff was presented. It has been placed on the church’s bulletin board.

Next Meeting -- The next Council meeting will be on November 7 at 7 PM.

Adjournment -- Lori made a motion to adjourn; Mark seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 9:20 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Nelson, Recording Secretary

November



our Savior's finished work on the cross, we all have a glorious future, a guaranteed future forever. Rejoice and be glad for this free gift of salvation. It's for all who trust in our Savior. Be thankful, and he will fill your way with joy.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom, that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

Thank God for the glorious gift of grace, period for by grace, you have been saved through faith. This is a gift from God. Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and your belief in him you have received eternal life, the greatest gift of all. Even the faith needed to receive salvation is a gift. For this amazing generosity, we surely should have a grateful heart. For this, we can never thank God, too often, too much or too often for Grace. What does it mean to have all your sins forgiven? It means you are no longer on a pathway to hell, but your destination is a new heaven and a new earth.

It means that every day of your life is valuable. Don't forget to think God every day for these wonderful gifts. When you were thankful, it will increase your joy and you will be thankful for all your other blessings. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doings, it is a gift from God, not a result of works, so that no one can boast. Be sure to remember to thank God, for he is good and his love endures forever. Just think of the many blessings he has provided for you. Thank him for the gift of life and for those you love to. Your food, water, shelter, clothing, and so on. The greatest gift of everlasting life. Delight in Who God is. A God who is 100% good. He says I am the light of the world and my love for you will go on and on, throughout eternity. Trust that I am with you and find comfort in my unfailing love. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Be joyful and thankful for the blessings I shower on you. I want you to enjoy the good things I give you. Be thankful and live in the present, refusing about worrying About tomorrow. Today, enjoy the good things I have given you. Since you never know what tomorrow brings, remember to be happy today with family, friends, talents, and possessions, and look for ways to be a blessing to others. God often provides unexpected blessings to comfort you and lead you forward.

For the Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer. My God is my rock in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and my strong hold. God created you to glorify him. Remember this as you go through each day. Praise and worship are means of glorifying God. Praise God in prayer and song and in your words to other people. Tell them of God's marvelous works. Tell them how great God is. Ask God to guide you. He knows everything about you and your situation. The better you know God, the better he can guide your choices. For my word is a lamp to your feet and a light for your path Psalm

119:105

PS Remember to always be thankful to God and tell him so. He loves hearing from you.

You Lay Minister, LaVerne

Lines from LaVerne... When you are thankful, you worship God with reverence and awe. Ask God to help you to increase your level of gratefulness. Search for reasons to thank him. Rejoice in the things that are right. No matter what is happening, you can be joyful in God, your Savior. Because of

